ACCJC evaluation team begins visit, thanking Hartnell for ‘a lot of work’

About 50 of our staff and faculty gathered in Steinbeck Hall on March 4 to greet and welcome a 10-member evaluation team from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) as they began a four-day visit as part of our college’s reaccreditation process.

Willy Duncan, superintendent/president of Sierra College in Rocklin, acknowledged the excellent work that went into Hartnell’s Institutional Self-Evaluation Report, submitted in early January.

“We’ve read about your work, and you've done a lot of work in preparation for us,” Dr. Duncan said. “We really appreciate all the time and effort and care that you've put into the process.”

He called the ACCJC review a “peer-review process” intended not as a critique but a contribution to the ongoing success of Hartnell and our students.

“What we’re really hoping is that when we leave here, and we put this in a report, that it’s useful to you and helps you along the great work that you’re doing,” Dr. Duncan said.

David Beymer, full-time faculty and Standard I co-chair for the Hartnell Accreditation Council, led the team on a tour of the Main Campus. They also will be visiting the Alisal Campus and King City Education Center.

Hartnell employees and students, other college stakeholders and the general public are invited to two open forums and a closing presentation. The two open forums are:

- March 5, 1-2 p.m., room C-124 (Steinbeck Hall), Main Campus, 411 Central Ave., Salinas.
- March 6, 4-5 p.m., room C-107, Alisal Campus, 1752 E. Alisal St., Salinas.

The closing oral report, at which the ACCJC team will share its preliminary findings, is scheduled for 11 a.m. to noon on March 7 in Steinbeck Hall on the Main Campus.
Volunteers from Hartnell guide Peninsula students at Farm Day

On Feb. 28, I was joined by other Hartnell employees and my wife, Michele, at Monterey Farm Day at the Monterey Farm Day, where we served as class guides for elementary school children from the Monterey Peninsula.

HCCD Trustee Candi DePauw coordinates the Farm Day event and always appreciates the wonderful participation of our volunteers. I was a guide for Ms. Lee’s third-grade class from Captain Cooper Elementary School in Big Sur.

Pictured here with me and Michele are Hartnell colleagues Jihan Ejan, Elizabeth Cabiles, Belen Gonzales, Sharon Albert, Shannon Bliss and Clint Cowden.

President Lewallen presents on CSin3 at Innovations Conference in NYC

I was honored to present on Hartnell’s successful CSin3 program, our three-year computer science bachelor's degree program in collaboration with CSU Monterey Bay, at the 2019 Innovations Conference on Feb. 24-27 in New York City. The conference is presented by the League for Innovation in the Community College.

My presentation highlighted the fact that CSin3 has graduated three cohorts with a 76 percent completion rate for first-generation, Latinx and female students. A $5 million innovation award and a $5 million NSF grant have allowed us and CSUMB to enhance and expand this tremendous program.

Application period is underway for 2019-20 MILE/WELI cohorts

Student applications will be accepted through April 5 for the 2019-20 cohorts of the Men’s Institute for Leadership (MILE) and Women’s Education and Leadership (WELI) programs at Hartnell. Both programs provide $1,000 scholarships, mentoring support from community leaders and small-group training in leadership and life skills for continuing and returning students.

Bronwyn Moreno, director of special programs, urges staff and faculty to share this information with students and encourage them to apply. Applicants may self-identify gender, and Dreamer students are welcome. The application is available here.

For questions or assistance, please call the Office of Special Programs at (831) 755-6723 or visit Building D, room 383.
Educator in Residence will discuss cultural disconnects on March 12

Hartnell’s 2019 Educator in Residence, Dr. Melissa Salazar, will return to the Main Campus on March 12 to speak on “The Role of Culture in Learning,” the second in her series of three presentations.

She will present a deeper discussion of cross-cultural disconnects that can occur in the college teaching/learning environment, especially in Hispanic-Serving Institutions. After an introduction to Chavez and Longerbeam’s (2014) continuum of cultural learning frameworks, participants will complete a personal cultural analysis quiz and consider how their individual educational, cultural backgrounds and familial histories have created their behaviors towards teaching and learning.

Dr. Salazar will present from 9-10 a.m. and 1-2 p.m., both times in Steinbeck Hall (C-124) on the Main Campus.

Jazz Band performs warmup for Music Extravaganza on March 8

On Feb. 26 in the Student Center, the Hartnell Jazz Band previewed tunes it will play during the vocal and instrumental Music Extravaganza in the Center for Performing Arts (Building K) at 6 p.m. on March 8. The group played a variety of jazz, blues and Latin songs, including “Sax to the Max,” “Blues in the Night,” “Skylark” and “Burritos to Go.”

“The band played really well, and it was great to have the opportunity to share our music with others,” said director Steve Ettinger. “We look forward to playing at the Student Center more often.”

Admission to the Music Extravaganza is $5 for students and seniors and $10 for general admission, including refreshments. Tickets will be sold at the event.

Parents give Vasquez rave reviews for Mi CASA presentation at NMCHS

The Center for Achievement and Student Achievement at Hartnell (Mi CASA) continues to expand its outreach to undocumented students and families, with support from a Catalyst Fund grant it received in September from the advocacy organization Immigrants Rising.
Mi CASA’s efforts are gaining traction and also extending to indigenous communities within the Hartnell Community College District. On Feb. 27, adjunct faculty Yuliana Vasquez was a guest presenter for the English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) at North Monterey County High School, engaging the audience and showcasing the varied services available at the college.

A communication from the school praised Vasquez’s presentation: "She was truly wonderful last night with our parents. She covered so many of the Hartnell resources that we all felt that Hartnell was the best college ever! Parents and students were very excited about all the offers, and her emotional warmth gave them a reason to ‘risk’ sending their kids to college. [Many of our families, especially our Mixteco families are worried about the 'risks' of sending their children to a place they don't know.]”

Mi CASA also thanked Hartnell’s Student Success team for their continuous support to fund a part-time counselor in its office.

**Martinez-Aguilar brings deep experience to her new position with Special Programs**

The Office of Special Programs is welcoming and congratulating its new program assistant, Ana Martinez-Aguilar, who will support all its programs: ACE, MILE, WELI, TTE, The Salinas Valley Promise and the Mi CASA Student Center.

Born in Salinas and raised in Soledad, Martinez-Aguilar is a first-generation citizen with a migrant family background. She has a bachelor’s degree from CSU Monterey Bay and a master’s degree from the University of Phoenix. Before joining Hartnell, she worked for 11 years at CSUMB in several roles, including as a front-line representative at the One-Stop Center, as a financial aid counselor and with the Educational Opportunity Program, including service as interim associate director for the EOP Summer Bridge Program.

Martinez-Aguilar came to Hartnell in January 2018 as a program assistant for the Math, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) program.
Drezner family urges transfer students to seek human services scholarships

On behalf of the Drezner Family Scholarship, Julie Drezner has sent a reminder and invitation to Hartnell students who will transfer to a four-year school in Fall 2019 to pursue a bachelor’s degree in a health and human service, education or related field.

The fund awards scholarships of up to $5,000 per year for two years. The application deadline is March 15, and more information is available online.

Said Drezner, “Please share this information with transfer students you know who are highly motivated to be successful and who care deeply about living a life of purpose through service to others and making a positive difference in their community.”

Drs. Oliva and Jimenez share work with Parent Club at SJSU conference

Dr. Nereida Oliva and Dr. Hortencia Jimenez, Hartnell faculty and co-advisers of the college’s Student Parent Club, on Feb. 23 took four students to the annual Northern California NACCS Regional Conference that was held at San Jose State University.

They were joined for their presentation, titled “With and for our Children: Lessons from Chicano/Latinx Community College Student Parents Navigating the Educational Pipeline,” by the four students, who served as panelists.

The students – Isabel Landeros, Vivian Leyva, Selena Plancarte and Virginia Ramirez – spoke about balancing parenthood, school and work; a non-linear educational journey; the relationship between education and parenting for social justice; and the importance of campus spaces inclusive of student parents.
Feb. 28 employee barbecue is big success for student success

The Employees for Student Success barbecue on Feb. 28 pushed the 2019 campaign close to its $125,000 goal, with close to 200 meal tickets sold, including several that went toward free meals for students.

Members of the Employee Giving Committee pitched in to serve a meal of chicken, beans, salad and roll prepared by Hartnell “master chef” Art Alvarado, ground supervisor (pictured at left).

Empowerment conference urges ‘best version of you’

The Women’s Empowerment Conference, scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on March 9, has a registration deadline of March 6.

This year’s theme, “The Best Version of You,” is inspired by a new book by keynote speaker and former Hartnell employee Esmeralda Montenegro-Owen, titled “Beautiful: Seven Steps to the Best Version of You.” All attendees will receive a signed copy.

The free conference, in its fifth year, is being organized by the Associated Students of Hartnell College. Workshops will include self-care and wellness, career and professional development and self-defense. Business attire is recommended.

Another feature will be the availability of professional clothing donated by employees, and donations are still being accepted. For more information, contact student Samantha Saldana, director of the Inter-Club Council, at samanthajsaldana@student.hartnell.edu.

Track women claim Wildcat Cup with several first-place efforts

Hartnell women’s track and field claimed first among five teams competing in the Wildcat Cup at Chabot on March 2 in Hayward. Freshman Daniela Salazar (Watsonville H.S.) won the 800 meters, becoming the first state qualifier in Northern California, at 2:19.51. She followed a blistering first-lap pace by sophomore Monica Ruelas (Gilroy H.S.), who took second place with a lifetime best of 2:21.48, a State B qualifying mark. The team of sophomore Dakota Peebles (San Benito H.S.), Ruelas, Salazar and sophomore Veronica Aguilar (Salinas H.S.) won the 4x400 with a season-best of 4:19.04. Salazar and Ruelas paired with sophomores Nina Arias (North Salinas H.S.) and Maria Aceves
(Notre Dame H.S.) for a win in the rarely run distance medley relay (13:11.97), the fourth best time in the state. Sophomore Tyshell Johnson-Hill (Everett Alvarez H.S.) won the shot put, at 35 feet, 9.25 inches.

Also in the Wildcat Cup, performances by the men’s track and field team included a first-place debut dash by sophomore Brendan Lepe (North Salinas H.S.) in the 400-meter hurdles (photo), at 57.20. Sophomore Wyatt Conner (Salinas H.S.) achieved his lifetime best in the hammer throw with a toss of 147 feet, 6 inches.

Hartnell Baseball, with a 7-8 overall record as of March 4, is coming off a 4-5 loss to Mission at home on March 2. A day before, the Panthers pounded Contra Costa on the road, 21-3, having been soundly defeated at San Francisco City on Feb. 26, 16-8. They will face Gavilan at home on March 7.

The softball team had a tough doubleheader at home against Porterville on March 2, losing 15-1 and 11-4. With a 2-12 record as of March 4, they will not play at home again until March 12, when they take on West Valley.

In the News


March’s big ticket events in Silicon Valley:

Righetti FFA wins sweepstakes at Hartnell College Field Day:

Men’s Basketball (De Anza) conclude season with a bang:
https://lavozdeanza.com/sports/2019/03/03/mens-basketball-conclude-season-with-a-bang/

North Salinas gets first new track coach in a quarter-century:
https://www.thecalifornian.com/story/sports/2019/03/01/nike-local-experience-sets-up-new-north-salinas-coach-success/3005498002/

Upcoming Events

Note: Occasionally there are changes to dates/times for athletic contests due to weather and other circumstances. Check the Hartnell Athletics website for the most current schedule information (http://www.hartnellpanthers.com).
ACCJC Open Forum
4-5 p.m.
Wednesday, March 6
Building C, room 107 @ Alisal Campus

ACCJC Preliminary Report
11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Thursday, March 7
Steinbeck Hall (C-124)

Baseball vs. Gavilan
2 p.m.
Thursday, March 7
Tony Teresa Diamond, Hartnell

Music Extravaganza
6-9 p.m.
Friday, March 8
Center for Performing Arts (Building K)

Women’s Empowerment Conference
8:30 a.m-2 p.m.
Saturday, March 9
Steinbeck Hall (Building C)

Softball vs. West Valley
3 p.m.
Tuesday, March 12

Baseball vs. Canada
2:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 14
Tony Teresa Diamond, Hartnell

Softball vs. West Valley
3 p.m.
Thursday, March 14
Hartnell field

Baseball vs. Ohlone
2:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 21
Tony Teresa Diamond, Hartnell

Softball vs. Mission
3 p.m.
Thursday, March 21
Hartnell field